

# Mohave County Strategic and Tactical Communications Planning

State/County Coordination  
on Regional Governance

*Presented at July 19, 2011 PSCC Meeting  
by Byron Steward  
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# Planning Chronology

- Fall 2009 – Initiated discussions with PSIC on available funding for training and planning
- February 2010 – Submitted FY2010 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program application for \$126,400 for development of a Mohave County Regional Interoperable Communications Plan
- September 2010 - Received notice of grant award
- December 2010 – Approval of MOU with ADOHS and IGA with PSIC for PSIC to manage grant funds



# Planning Chronology

- March 3, 2011 – First planning meeting with consultants, PSIC reps, and 30 representatives from 21 agencies
- May 3, 2011 – Strategic Communications Migration Plan (SCMP) detailed planning session
- May 4, 2011 – Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) detailed planning session
- May 4 & 11, 2011 – Received draft SCMP and TICP from consultant



# Planning Chronology

- May 26, 2011 – Additional TICP planning session (in-county agencies only)
- July 15–August 15, 2011 – Meetings with individual agencies to complete TICP info
- Sept. 7, 2011 – LEPC Subcommittee SCMP & TICP review
- Sept. 20, 2011 – Expected LEPC Approval of SCMP & TICP and their recommendation to Jurisdictions
- Oct.–Dec. 2011 – SCMP, TICP Jurisdictional adoptions



# Strategic Communications Migration Plan

- Aligns with HSPD-8, Target Capability List, Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, and National Emergency Communications Plan
- Mohave County SCMP Priorities and Tasks:
  - o Develop LEPC, through its Communications Subcommittee, as Regional (County) Communications Governance Group
    - Establish Subcommittee as communications project review board
    - Promote consistent and inclusive agency participation
    - Develop Regional (County) communications information board



# Strategic Communications Migration Plan

- o Develop Regional Communications SOP's
  - Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
  - Communications Continuity of Operations Plan
  - Auxiliary Emergency Communications
  - Interagency Public Safety Answering Point Communications (working through county PSAP Committee)
  
- o System of Systems Connectivity
  - Manage narrowbanding mandate impacts
  - Connect systems to State microwave backbone, as appropriate
  - Maintain analog systems to retain coverage “fade”
  - Maintain current VHF systems as most cost effective coverage
  - Implement additional voice interoperable options between PSAP's



# Strategic Communications Migration Plan

- o Collaborative Exercise and Training Opportunities
  - Interoperable communications policies and procedures
  - Interoperable communications equipment
  - Integrate communications into effective incident response plans
  - Integrate communications into effective pre-event planning
- o Asset Testing Opportunities
  - Develop County Communications Training/Exercise Plan
  - Leverage in-county assets and opportunities for joint training
  - Leverage regional opportunities for joint training



# Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

- Agency Participation
  - 39 government, 6 non-government agencies
  - City, County, Tribal Governments
  - Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, Public Works, Public Health, BLM, DPS, ADOT, Game & Fish, State Forestry, Coast Guard, NPS
- Governance
  - LEPC Communications Subcommittee
- Prioritization and Shared Use of In-County Assets





# Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

- Interoperability Equipment, Policies, and Procedures
  - o Overarching Procedures – NIMS, NRF, Plain Language, Unit ID
  - o Systems
    - Shared Systems, including Intra-System Shared Channels
    - Inter-System Shared Channels, including FCC Designated National Channels, AIRS, and WAX fire mutual aid channel
    - Gateways, including Dispatch Centers
    - Cached Radios
    - Mobile Communications Units
    - Auxiliary Emergency Communications Groups



# Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

- o Equipment Usage Policies and Procedures
  - Individual System Owner Policies and Rules of Use
  - Problem ID, Resolution, and Test Procedures
  - Asset Request and Deployment Procedures, when applicable
  - Activation Procedures, when applicable
  - Deactivation Procedures, when applicable
- o Emergency Resource Staffing
  - Identify COML's, COMC's, COMT's for all agencies
  - Establish training program and seek training funding
- o Communications Asset Survey and Mapping (CASM)



# Summary of Key Planning Factors

- Excellent consultant facilitation & knowledge –Essential
- GITA flexibility & consultant selection very beneficial
- Consultants' Plan Templates extremely useful
- Involve as many agencies as possible in first meeting or get their input ASAP in process – Maximize Buy In
- Emphasize the positive – how this will improve response task accomplishment and aid in seeking funding
- Necessary to motivate some agencies to develop their systems' written protocols and procedures
- Utilize existing working groups (LEPC, PSAP & Comm. committees, Fire and LE professional groups)



# Summary of Key Planning Factors

- Designate, train, and exercise COML's, COMT's ASAP
- Work one on one with individual agencies that lack in house communications expertise – plan templates and training essential
- Leverage existing assets in lieu of gold plating

## THANK YOU! *QUESTIONS?*

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